

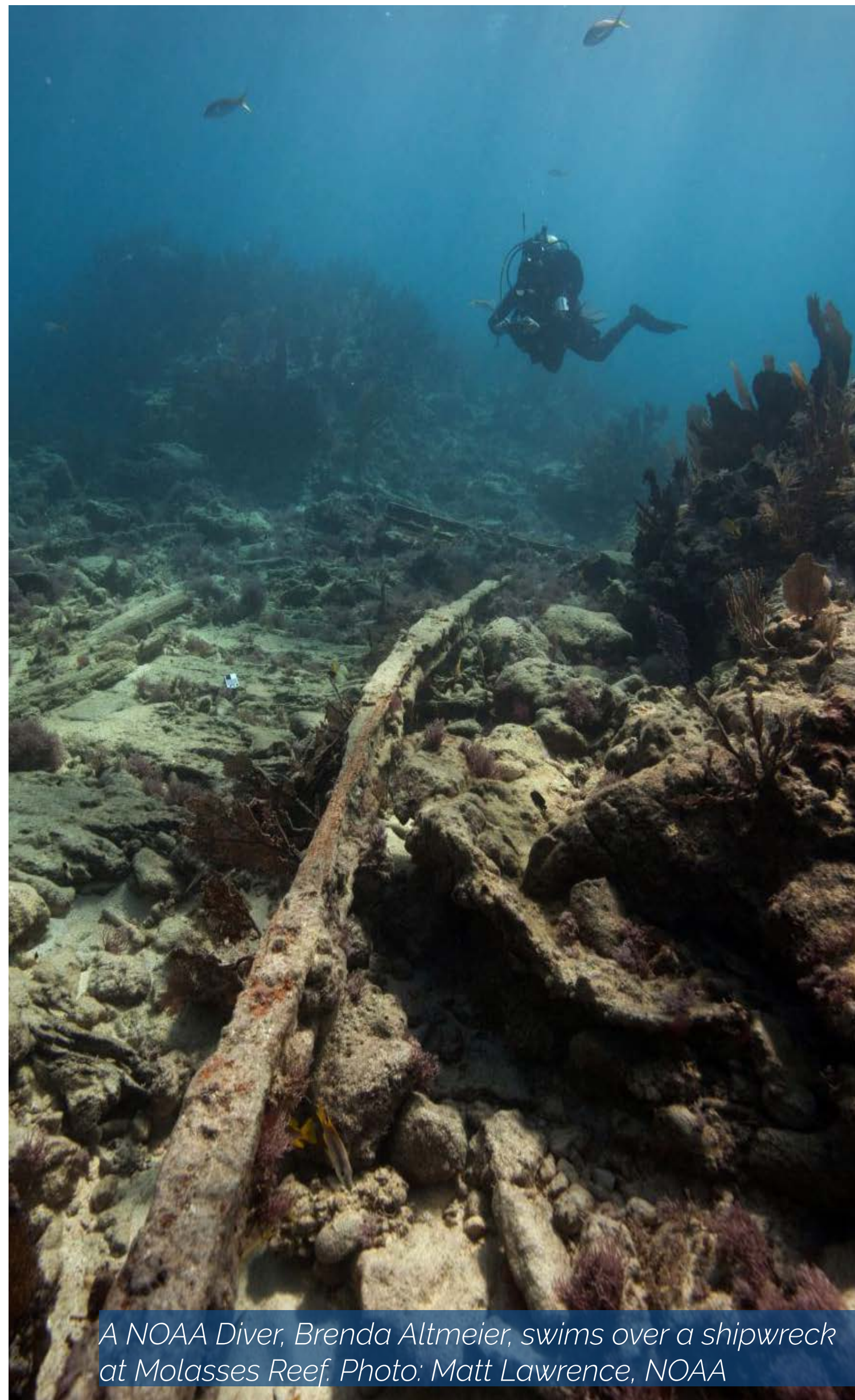


2018-2019

ANNUAL REPORT

NOAA Diving Program

Photo: Underwater by Ryan Loughlin, via Unsplash



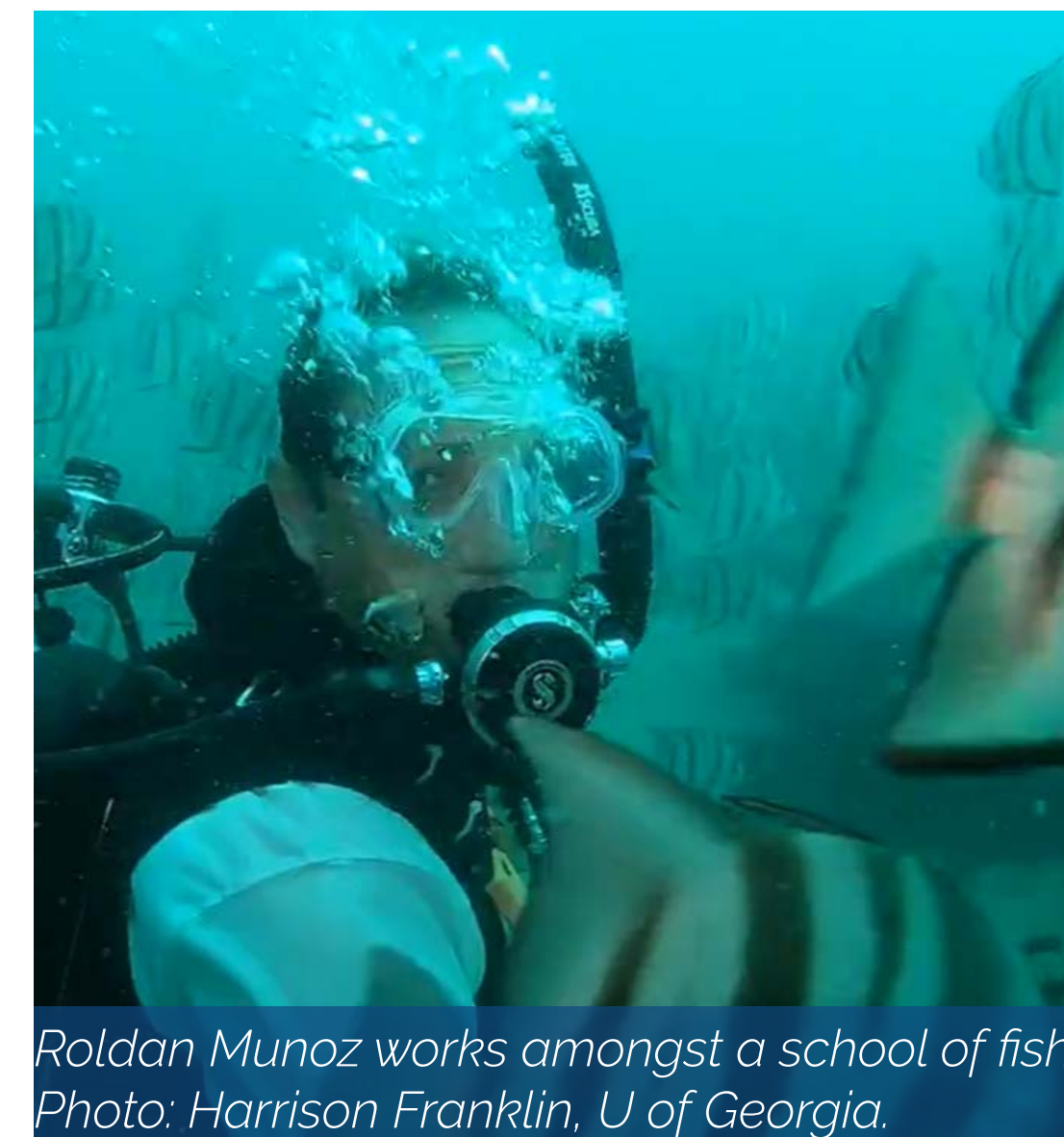
A NOAA Diver, Brenda Altmeier, swims over a shipwreck at Molasses Reef. Photo: Matt Lawrence, NOAA



A close-up of a lion's paw scallop. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA



A jellyfish swimming with fish. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA



Roldan Munoz works amongst a school of fish. Photo: Harrison Franklin, U of Georgia.

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The following are interactive sections: 02, 05, 06, and 07. Hover your cursor over the infographics on these sections to learn more about the data presented.

01

Our Mission

To train, certify, and equip scientists, engineers, and technicians while promoting innovation of effective diving technologies and safety of underwater operations

Our Divers

NOAA Diving Program Growth

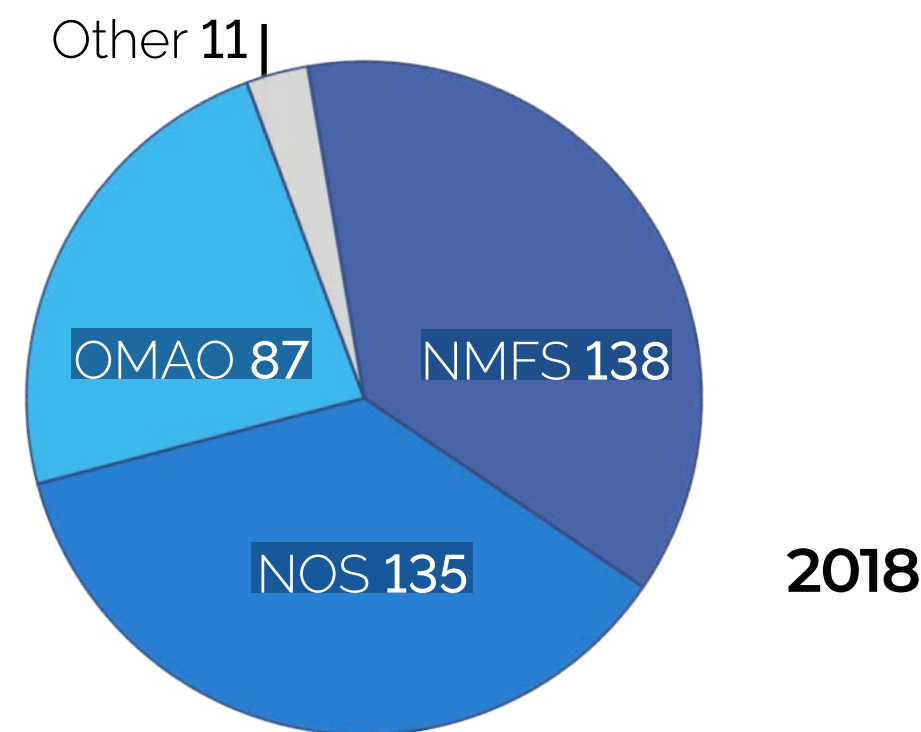
The total number of NOAA Divers increased from 371 to 377 by 2019. See the distribution of divers by Line Office and employment status below.

02

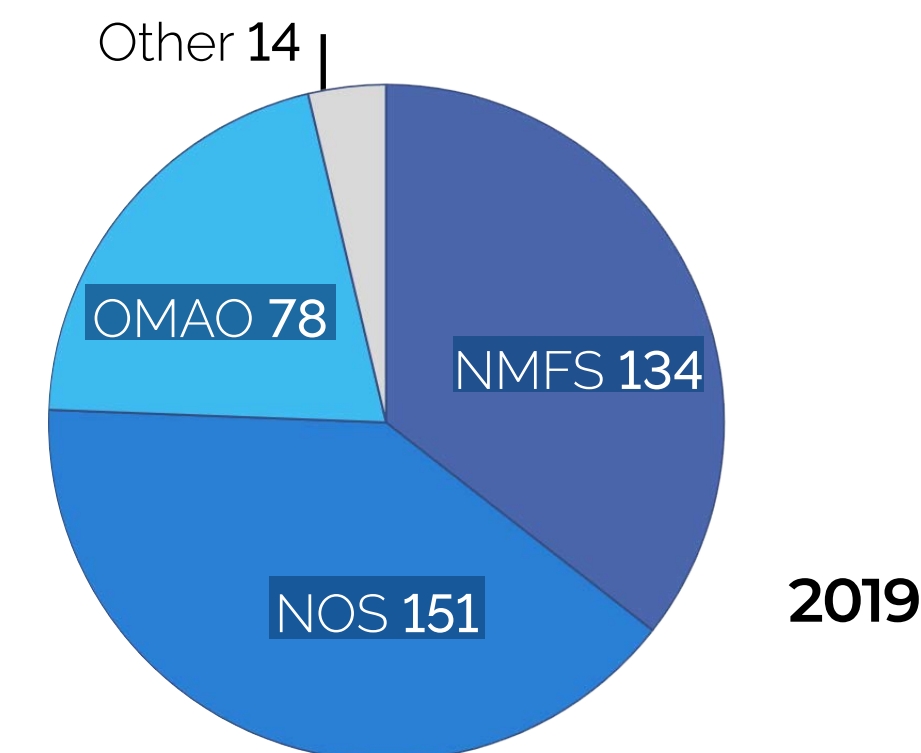


Kate Thompson, the Education & Outreach Chief for the proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary, inspects the capstan on the sunken schooner St. Peter. Photo: Phil Hartmeyer, NOAA

Divers by Line Office

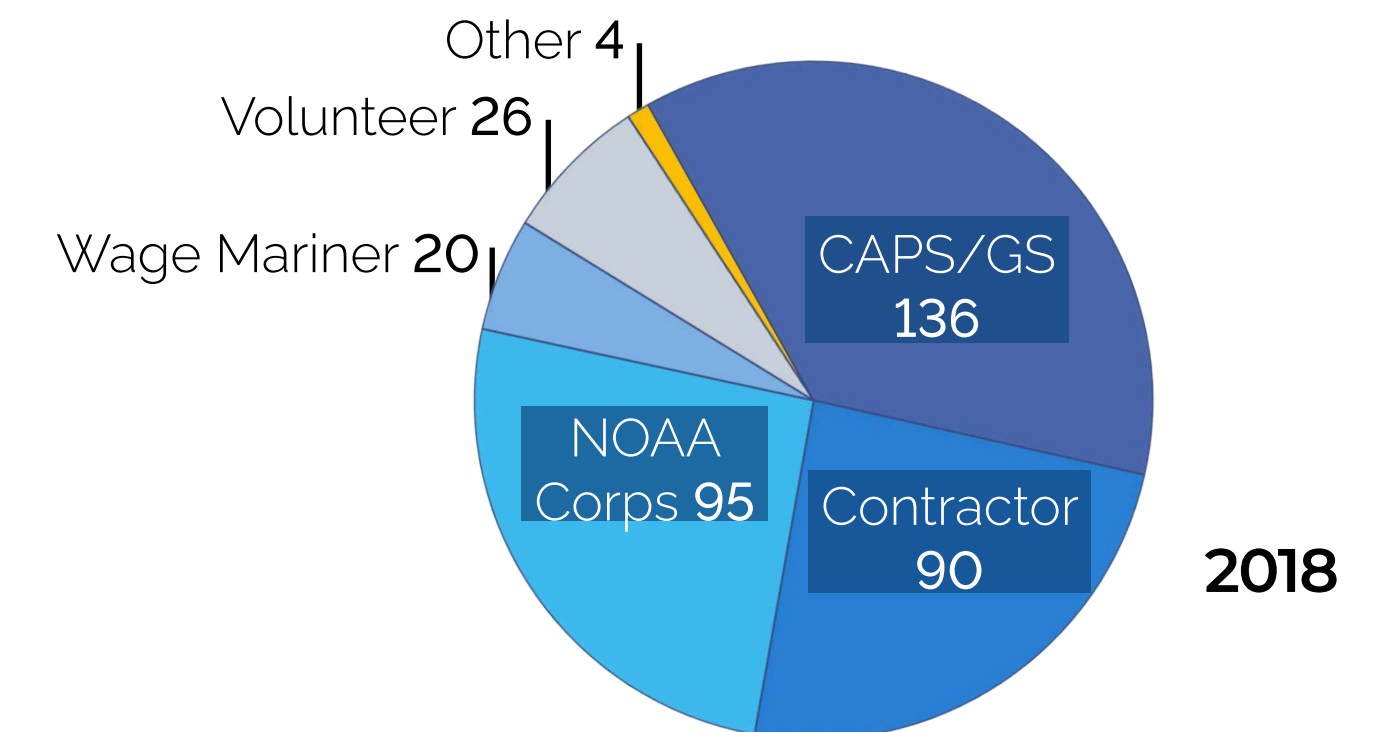


2018

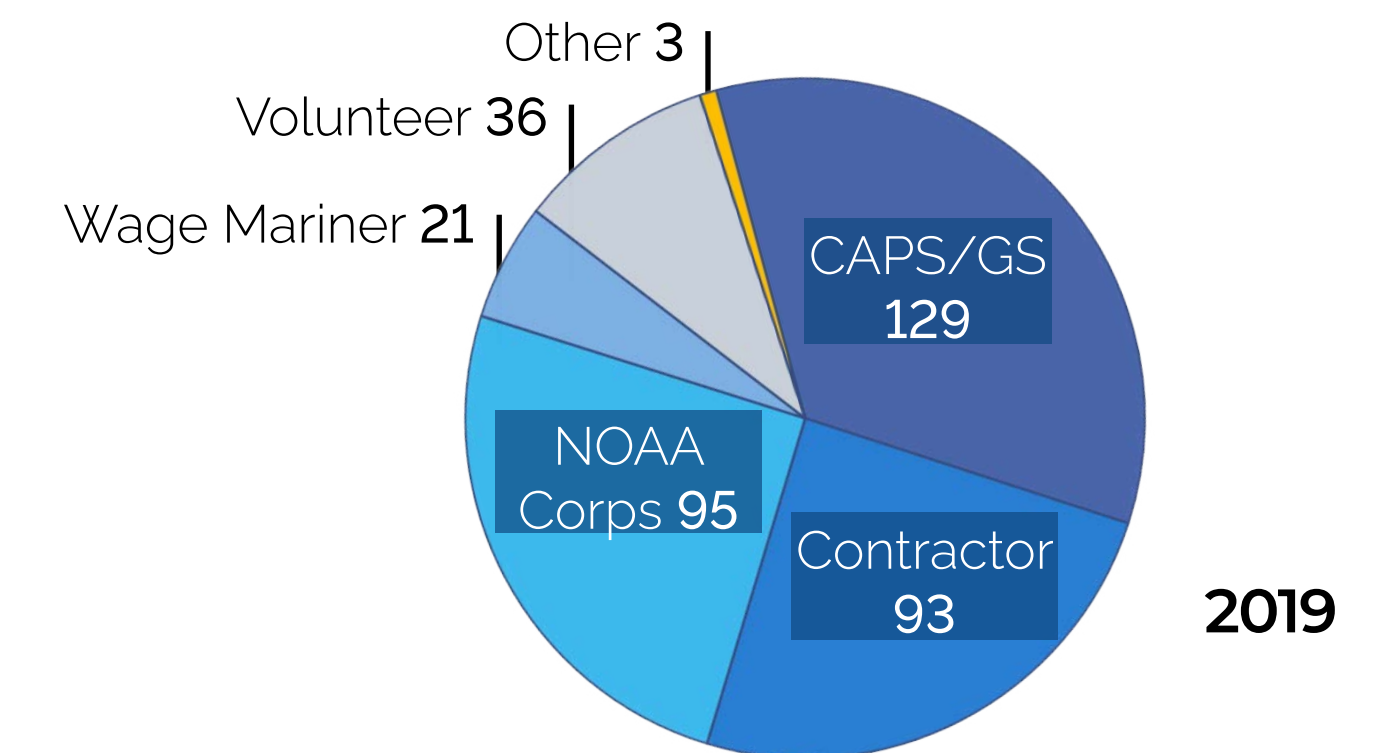


2019

Divers by Employment Status



2018



2019

Total Divers 2011-2019

03



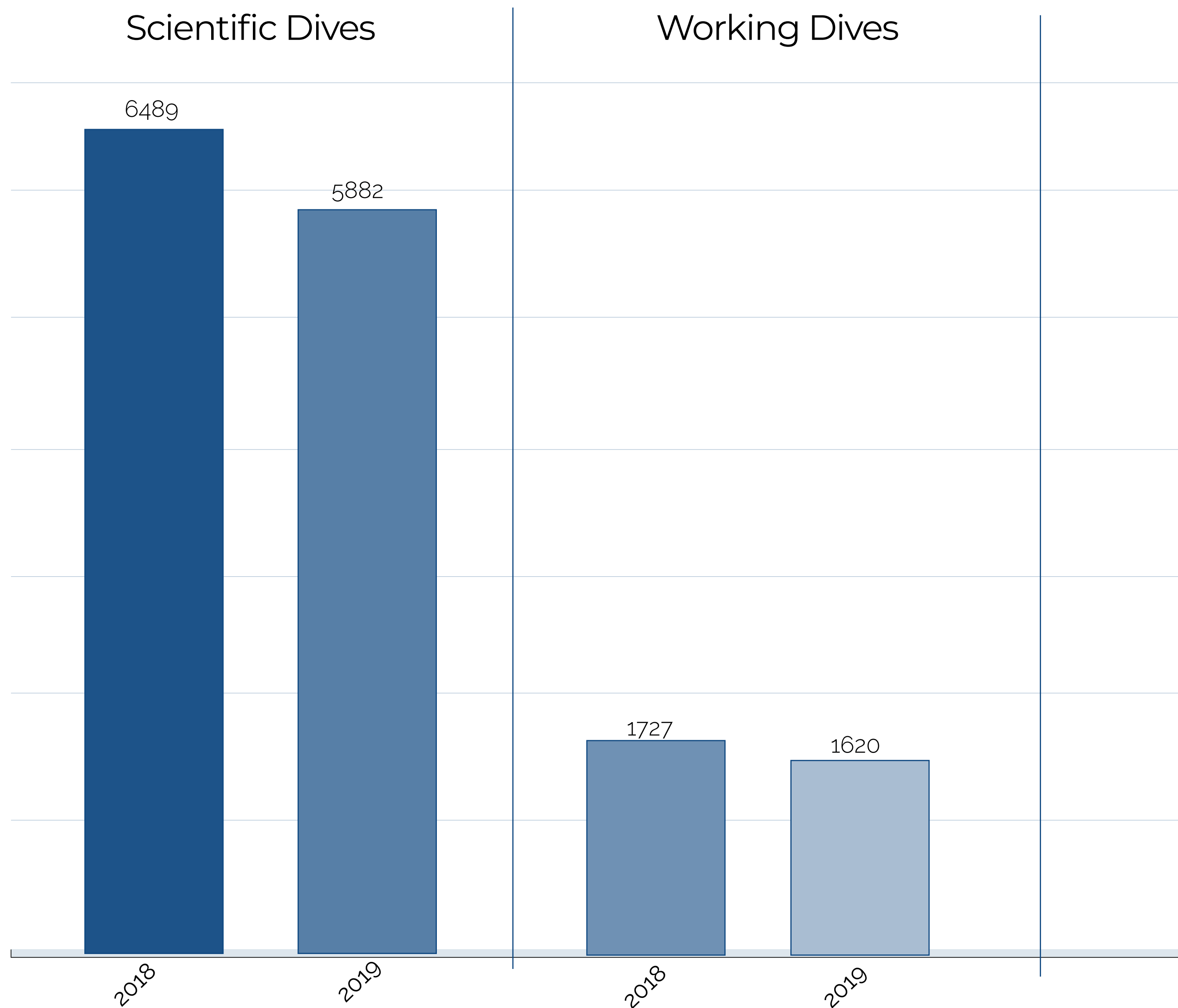
2018

2019

9,922	Non-Decompression	9,885
194	Decompression	222
10,047	SCUBA	10,055
69	Chamber/Habitat	52
8,900	Open Circuit	8,452
72	Non-Saturation	45
665	Closed Circuit Rebreather	406
4	Semi-Closed Rebreather	7
4	Seafloor	6
9	Surface	1

Total Dives by Dive Mode 2018 - 2019

Sarah Fangman, a NOAA Diver and Superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, observes a low-relief ocean floor. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA

Total
Scientific DivesTotal
Working Dives

Types of Dives

With the OSHA Scientific Exemption, NOAA makes waves

Most dives conducted at NOAA are classified as scientific dives, which means they are not subject to OSHA restrictions. This is because these dives use simple lightweight tools, and are primarily for tasks such as scientific or archaeological observation, or other tasks that will advance NOAA's scientific mission.

In contrast, working dives **are** subject to OSHA. NOAA divers conduct working dives for tasks such as installing or removing heavy underwater scientific equipment, construction, welding, or other physically difficult or potentially dangerous tasks.

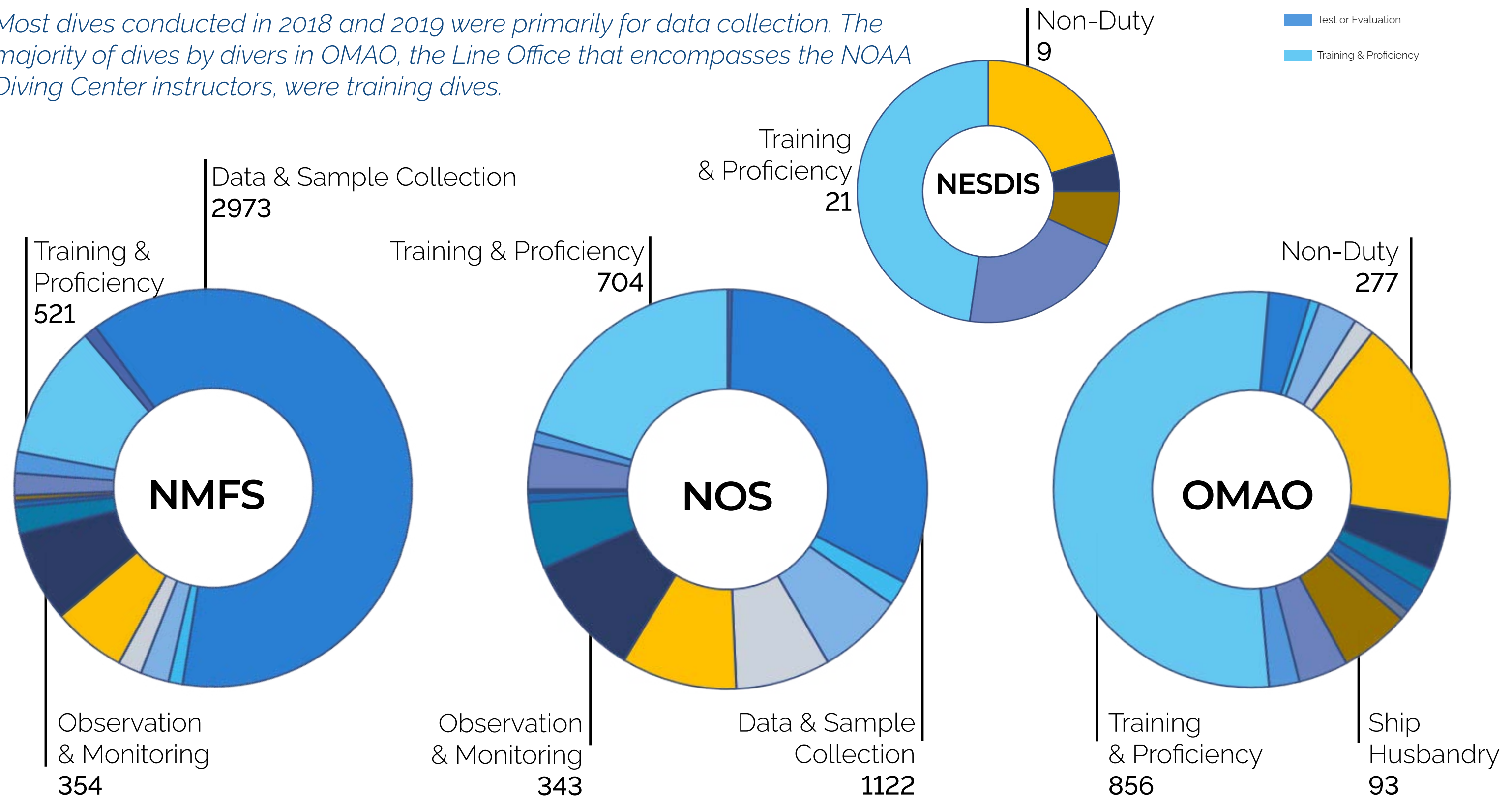
04+

Primary Tasks

Primary Dive Tasks by Line Office in 2018

Most dives conducted in 2018 and 2019 were primarily for data collection. The majority of dives by divers in OMAO, the Line Office that encompasses the NOAA Diving Center instructors, were training dives.

- Construction
- Data & Sample Collection
- Dive Support
- Inspection or Survey
- Installation or Removal
- Non-Duty Proficiency
- Observation & Monitoring
- Photo/Video Documentation
- Repair & Maintenance
- Search & Recovery
- Ship Husbandry
- Skills Checkout
- Test or Evaluation
- Training & Proficiency

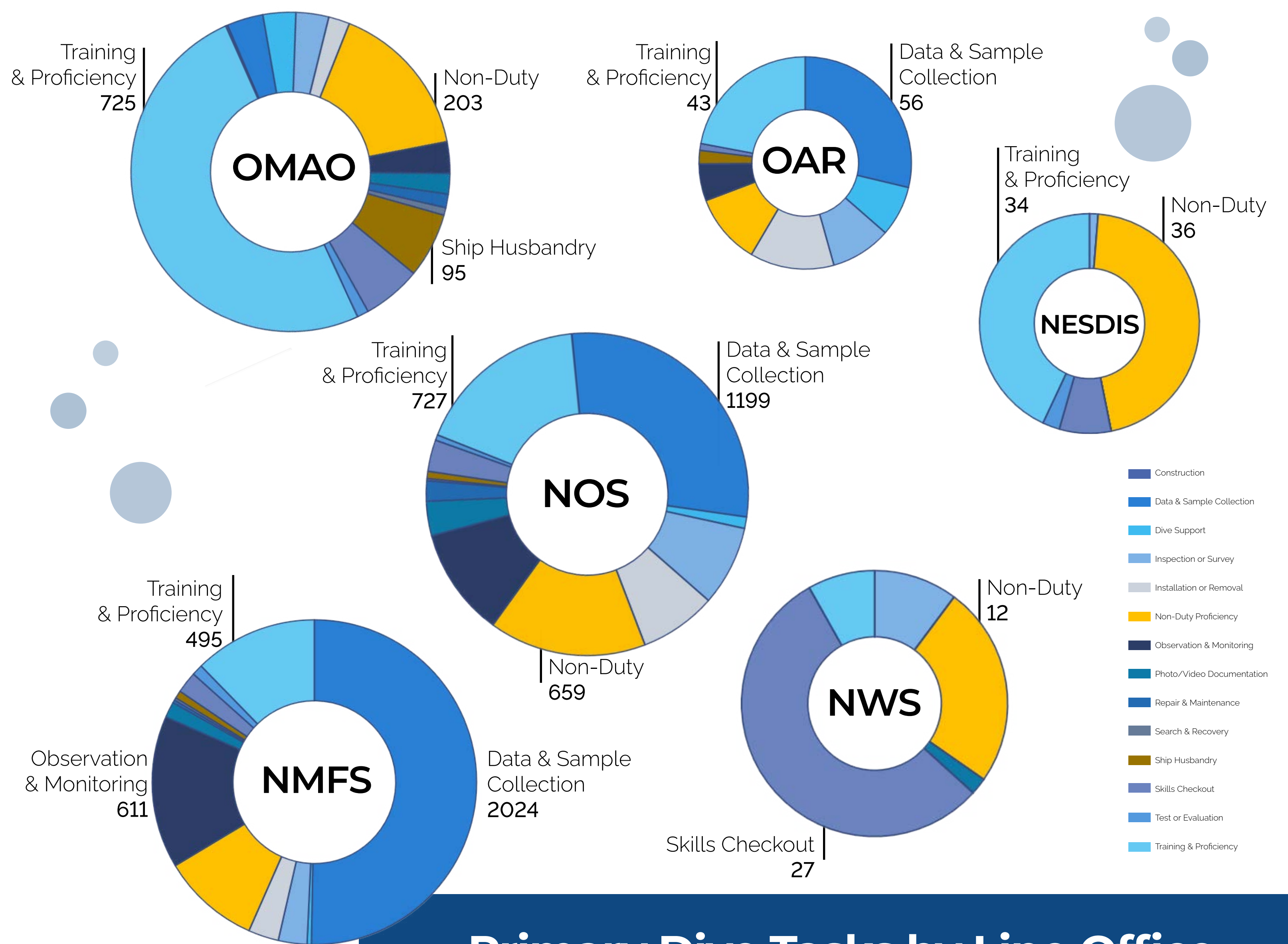


05

Dr. Kelly Gleason holds a harpoon. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA



A black basketstar holds onto a gorgonian.
Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA



Primary Dive Tasks by Line Office in 2019

2018

Total Dives: **10,116**
Total Hours of Bottom Time: **6,202**

Locations & Number of Dives

- Foreign Coasts **224**
- Pacific Territories **1006**
- Deep Ocean Waters **10**
- Other **459**

06

Where we Dove in 2018



2019

Total Dives: **10,107**
Total Hours of Bottom Time: **5,907**

Locations & Number of Dives

- Foreign Coasts **304**
- Pacific Territories **238**
- Deep Ocean Waters **32**
- Other **4425**

06

Where we Dove in 2019



07

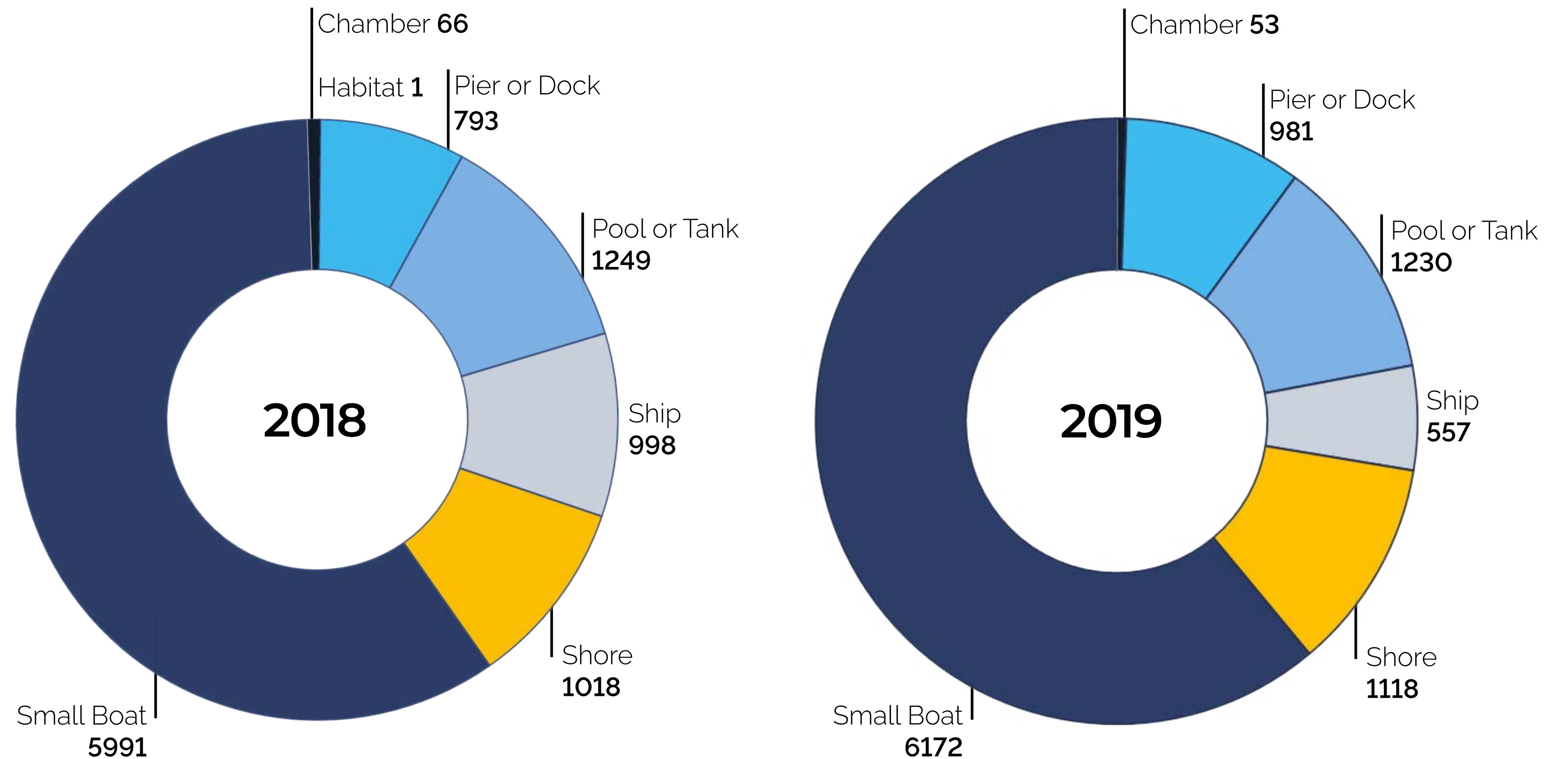
Dive Platform

NOAA Diving Platforms in 2018 and 2019

Most dives conducted in 2018 and 2019 took place off of a small boat. Boats that are less than 300 tons have more utility for divers than most other platforms, since smaller boats can more easily navigate to the dive site.



NOAA Divers on a small boat at Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary. Photo: Harrison Franklin, U of Georgia

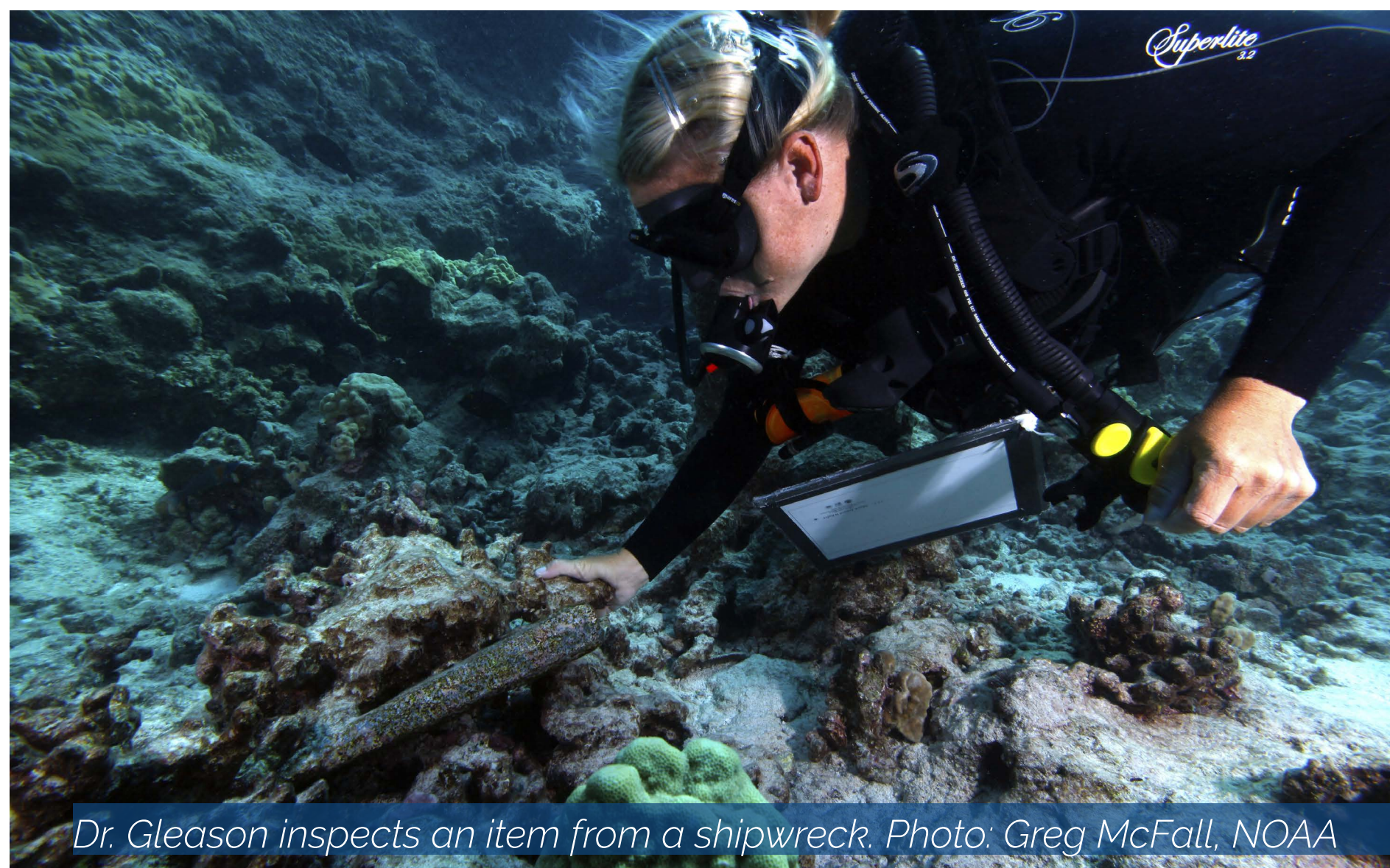




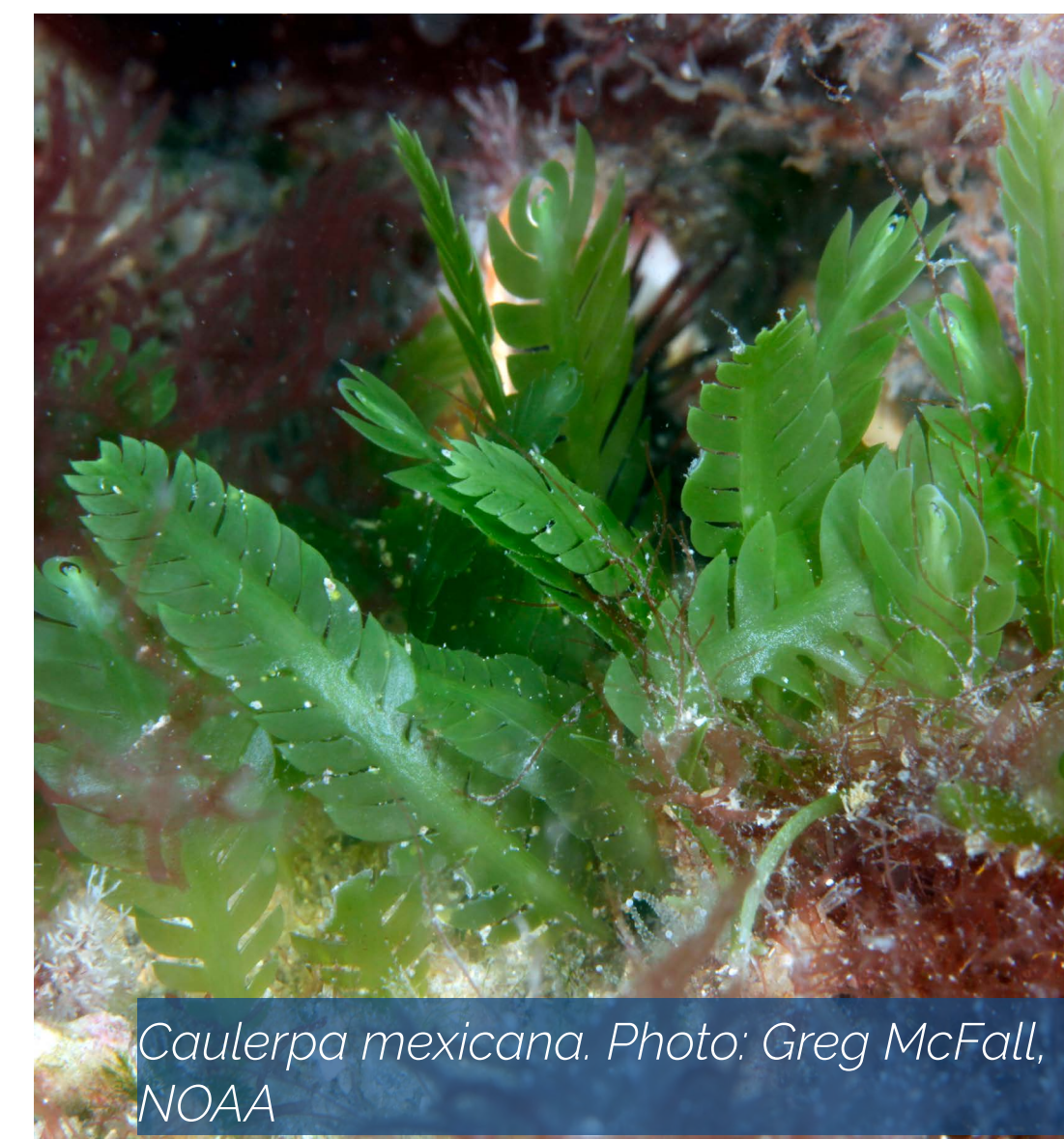
An orange teleost up close. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA



Sarah Fangman swims behind fishes, gorgonians, and sponges. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA



Dr. Gleason inspects an item from a shipwreck. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA



Caulerpa mexicana. Photo: Greg McFall, NOAA